## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /085 W

-----240916Z 018002/15

R 240802Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 183
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, XF

SUBJECT: MANILA PRESS REACTION TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: MANILA 7862

1. MANILA PRESS HAS TAKEN SAME UPBEAT LINE RE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AS PRESIDENT DID IN PRIVATE (REFTEL). PRESS MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. CEASEFIRE WILL BE MAINTAINED WITH SUPPORT OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. DELEGATES THAN MANJOORSA (MNLF) AND COMMANDANT CISSE (ISLAMIC CONFERENCE) HAVE BEEN ORDERED BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES TO CONTINUE THEIR PEACE MISSION.

B. THE CONFERENCE DIRECTED THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MEDIATE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE GOP AND THE MNLF, IN CONFORMITY WITH
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS OF PREVIOUS YEARS.
C. NUR MISUARI HAS DROPPED CEMANDS FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FOR MINDANAO WHICH HE MADE AT THE
OUTSET OF THE TRIPOLI MEETING. HE HAS
REVERTED TO HIS ORIGINAL STANCE OF DEMANDING

HIS OWN VERSION OF AUTONOMY. NUR MISUARI IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE RELENTED UNDER "FRIENDLY PRESSURE" FROM THE LIBYANS.

- 2. A CARTOON IN THE DAILY EXPRESS SHOWS A DOVE CARRYING AN OLIVE BRANCH AND A SUITCASE LABLED "TO RP" FLYING AWAY FROM A MINARET LABELED "ISLAMIC CONFERENCE." COLUMNIST VALENCIA OBSERVES "TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF PEK E IN MINDANAO.

  IS THOSE MNLF LEADERS THOUGHT THEY HAD A CHANCE IF THEY CREATED TROUBLE THEY WOULD HAVE ALREADY DONE SO BY NOW."
- 3. COMMENT REFTEL APPLIES. VALENCIA MAY BE RIGHT THAT TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF PEACE IN MINDANAO; IF SO, THERE HAS BEEN A RATHER BASIC CHANGE IN MORE PSYCHOLOGY. WE DO NOT YET KNOW FULL EXTENT OF NUR MISUARI'S REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE'S APPARENTLY MODERATE POSTION, NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT HIS ORDERS TO HIS FIELD COMMANDERS WILL BE, OR WHETHER THEY WILL OBEY.
- 4. FOR TRIPOLI. WOULD APPRECIATE FULL TEXT OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS DEAILING WITH PHILIPPINE QUESTION WHEN AVAILABLE. STULL

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: MANILA PRESS REACTION TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, XF

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